

Minutes of the Board of Water Commissioners' Meeting

Monday, May 19, 2014

Present: Commissioners G. Van De Kreeke, R. Haen, M. Heinz, and J. Trueblood, Superintendent.

The meeting was called to order by G. Van De Kreeke, President, at 4:04 P.M. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Haen, seconded by Commissioner Heinz, that the minutes of the April 28, 2014 meeting be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The financial reports for April were reviewed. Commissioner Haen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Heinz, to accept the financials as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Operations' Department Report

Superintendent reported that April pumpage increased 3.6% from last year. Superintendent then reviewed the summary of operations work for the month. Superintendent noted that Mr. Swearingen and the operations department successfully implemented the use of polymer during this runoff season. As a result, the Utility fed nearly 30,000 pounds less alum during the month than would be expected without the polymer: this after correcting for raw water and total pumpage differences. The Commissioners noted that Mr. Swearingen and other staff members involved should be commended, and accepted the report as presented.

Construction Maintenance Department Report

Superintendent reviewed recent maintenance work completed by the crew. 4 water main breaks occurred during the month. In addition, the crew continued work on concrete restoration for the numerous water main break holes that occurred during the winter, along with evaluating damage to certain streets. The Commissioners accepted the report as presented.

Old Business

Old Business Presented By Commissioners

The Commissioners asked about repairs to Georgia Avenue near the Housing Authority property. Superintendent explained that the associated project was on the upcoming water main approval list.

Other Old Business

Discuss failure of several letters on Erie Avenue tanks

Superintendent reported that Donohue & Associates had initiated contact with Preload as regards the letter failures. Preload proposed replacement of the failed letters, but Superintendent did not feel that was workable unless the remaining letters are inspected. Superintendent will communicate with Donohue about the need for inspection of all letters and a determination as to their integrity. If the remaining letters are all right, then replacement of the failed letters might be acceptable. But we need to determine the probability of more failures. There was additional discussion of warranties and statute of limitations in the case of faulty work.

Update Board on Safe Drinking Water loan for UV project

Superintendent informed the Board that the Utility Accountant, Ms. Gottsacker, is working on the Financial Assistance Application, which must be submitted before June 30.

Update Board on preliminary costs in switching mobile home parks to master meter settings

Superintendent reported that preliminary layouts have been determined. Pressure and flow tests were also conducted. The Indian Meadows Park can be served by one master meter, but the Sommers Park will require two meters. The initial cost estimate for the meter pits came in too high. Commissioner Haen suggested some alternative vendors. Superintendent stated the project is on hold until we can find more cost effective meter pits.

New Business

Business to be presented by Commissioners

None

Other New Business

Discuss and ask Board approval for high lift ceiling rehabilitation project

Superintendent presented the bid results, which included a sole bid by Mike Koenig Construction Co, Inc., at a base bid of \$173,233, with alternate 1 at \$22,630 and alternate 2 at \$26,737. After review, Commissioner Haen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Heinz, to approve the base bids and both alternates, at a total cost of \$222,600, which fell below the engineer's estimate. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and ask Board approval for 2014 intake inspection and cleaning

Superintendent presented a proposal from Underwater Construction Corp. to dive, inspect, and clean the 36" and 30" intake cribs at a total cost of \$9,700. This work is done annually to prevent buildup of zebra and other mussels, and to review the condition of the cribs. Commissioner Heinz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Haen, to accept the proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and ask Board approval for purchase of 36" butterfly valve for 1929 clear well replacement

Superintendent presented a proposal from Davies Water for a 36" FLxFL b/f valve, Mueller Pratt, at a total cost of \$9,600: this compared to the cost for a 36" r/w valve at \$41,000. One new valve is needed for installation in the 1929 clear well prior to the UV project. Commissioner Haen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Heinz, to accept the proposal for the b/f valve. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and ask Board approval for dive removal and installation of two 36" valves

Superintendent explained the need to work on the 36" valves in the 1929 clear well prior to the UV project. Both valves date to 1929. One can be rehabilitated and one needs to be replaced. This work must take place under water due to our inability to drain the clear well for any period of time. Underwater Construction Corp provided a proposal to do the work at an estimated cost of \$23,951, with the assumption of three days of working time in the water. This figure compared with budgetary estimates provided last year by Seaview Diving, which is no longer in business. Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Haen, to accept the proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and ask Board approval for purchase of water meters

Superintendent presented figures from Badger Meter for the purchase of 250 1/2" M25 meters with integral Orion at a total cost of \$38,630 and for the purchase of 250 3/4" M25 meters with integral Orion at a total cost of \$38,630. Commissioner Haen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Van De Kreeke, to purchase the meters at a total cost of \$77,260. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and ask Board approval of health insurance renewal

Superintendent recently met with broker Julie Meyer to discuss plan renewal costs. Fixed costs would increase by 5%, mostly due to stop loss insurance premium. Administrative costs through Prairie States would increase by 2.7%. Commissioner Haen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Van De Kreeke, to accept the proposal prepared by Maritime/Hub. Motion passed unanimously.

Discuss new PSC rules or Info

None.

Discuss and ask Board approval for engineering services on S. Taylor Drive water main extension

Superintendent presented two proposals for engineering services for a 5,400 foot water main extension from Washington Avenue to Gateway Drive. Due to lack of development south of Washington Avenue, the southern portion of the boosted pressure zone has remained primarily supplied by one water main. Superintendent explained the various risks involved in the situation, with almost 20% of the Utility's water passing through that main on any given day. More than ten years ago, the Utility invested in extending a parallel main southward from the Georgia Avenue pumping station. The proposed extension would complete the parallel supply southward. Donohue & Associate's proposal included total charges of \$41,995 for alternatives analysis, prelim and final design, bidding services, and survey work. AECOM's proposal covered the same scope at a cost of \$59,900. After discussion, Commissioner Haen made a motion to accept Donohue's proposal contingent on receiving a cost breakdown for the various elements of the work. Commissioner Van De Kreeke seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discuss and ask Board approval of water main projects

Superintendent presented a worksheet from the engineering department listing five water main projects planned for 2014. These include 4,800' of mostly 16" main on S. 8th Street, from Kentucky Ave to Union Ave; 960' of 12" main on S. 12th Street, from Indiana Ave to Alabama Ave; and 670' of 8" main east of N. 23rd St. The fourth project involved abandoning deteriorated 4" water main on Superior Ave, and insulating 600' of water main on Georgia Ave near S. 26th St. The estimated construction cost for all projects is \$1.455M. The net cost to the Utility is \$1.293M. After discussion, Commissioner Van De Kreeke made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Heinz, to approve the projects as depicted. Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

None.

Approve Vouchers

Motion by Commissioner Van De Kreeke, seconded by Commissioner Haen, that gross payroll for April of \$139,015.04 and general vouchers for April of \$272,451.20 be allowed and approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel

Superintendent reviewed the organization chart with the Commissioners. At this point in time, Superintendent feels it would be beneficial to recruit an additional engineer. The Commissioners were in agreement and directed the Superintendent to begin the recruitment process. Other issues involving the org chart will be addressed at the June Board meeting.

Other Matters

Next Board Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2014.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM on a motion by Commissioner Haen, seconded by Commissioner Heinz. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes taken by:
Superintendent
Joe R. Trueblood

Raymond W. Haen, Secretary